

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 MMO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ( ISO ) W

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R 011235Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 344

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10381

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR,IN,US

SUBJECT: PRESS CRITICISM OF DIEGO GARCIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THREE DAYS JULY 30 - AUG. 1, EDITORIAL  
COVERAGE UNIFORMLY CRITICIZED THE CONGRESS APPROVAL TO  
EXPAND THE DIEGO GARCIA NAVAL BASE. HOWEVER, THE TONE OF  
CRITICISM WAS NOT BITTER. NO OFFICIAL REACTION THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST COMMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE SENATE VOTE IS A  
"VICTORY" FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. T.V. PARASURAM, IN  
WASHINGTON FOR THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SUMMARIZED GENERAL  
FEELING: "THE SENATE VOTE REPRESENTS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR  
THE PRESIDENT, FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE  
PENTAGON." (JULY 30)

2. WIDESPREAD CRITICISM STRESSED THAT "ALL THE PROTESTS  
OF THE LITTORAL STATES HAVE GONE UNHEEDED, AND EVEN UN  
WISHES HAVE BEEN IGNORED" (INDIAN EXPRESS, JULY 31).

3. MANY OBSERVERS MENTIONED AND SHARED THE "FEARS"  
EXPRESSED BY SENATOR MANSFIELD. "COMPLIMENTING" THE  
SENATOR, THE CONGRESS PARTY-ORIENTED NATIONAL HERALD  
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SAID JULY 31: "IT IS MAINLY ON ACCOUNT OF HIS CAMPAIGN

THAT FORTY-THREE SENATORS HAVE VOTED AGAINST THE BASE."

4. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE DECISION, ANALYSTS AGREED THAT THE U.S. ACTION WILL "LEAD TO AN INTENSIFICATION OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RIVALRY IN THE REGION", AND THE "COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO IS BOUND TO BECOME FAIRLY INTENSE" (TIMES OF INDIA, AUGUST 1).

5. EDITORS JUDGED THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN STATES CAN DO "VERY LITTLE" EXCEPT URGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN AT THE COMING SESSION" (INDIAN EXPRESS, JULY 31). HOWEVER, PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT (JULY 31) URGED THAT THE AMERICAN "GAME CAN BE DEFEATED ONLY BY THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN STATES."

6. SEVERAL WRITERS WARNED THAT WASHINGTON IS REPEATING THE "VIETNAM BLUNDER." AND "THIS MAY PROVE TO BE ANOTHER U.S. TRAGEDY" (NATIONAL HERALD).

7. TODAY'S HINDUSTAN TIMES FRONT-PAGED ITS LONDON BASED CORRESPONDENT'S DISPATCH, "CIA GROUP INSTALLED ON DIEGO GARCIA." HE LED HIS REPORT BY SAYING THAT "A MUCH BIGGER AMERICAN BASE THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED WILL BECOME OPERATIVE ON THE BRITISH ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR." HE ADDED: "WHAT THE AMERICANS, WHO HAVE ALREADY A CIA GROUP THERE MONITORING AFRICAN RADIO TRAFFIC, WILL BUILD WILL BE AN AIR AND SEA STAGING BASE."

8. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOI COMMENT AND NO INDIAN GOVT OFFICIAL HAS MENTIONED THE MATTER TO US.SAXBE

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